

Himalayan chain from Kashmir to Sikkim. Northwards . . . I can find no mention of Bhutan being given as part of the range of this creature.

But on two recent visits to Bhutan I have personally seen no less than four skins of Snow Leopard, all of which were killed in Bhutan and were in the possession of the King, who has kindly pointed out to me on the map the places in Bhutan they were obtained. Evidently they occur all along the northern part of Bhutan, and they sometimes descend to quite low elevations—an animal shot as low as 9,000 feet was very dark and a colour photograph of this skin was shown to the British Museum of Natural History who identified it as 'undoubtedly that of a Snow Leopard'.

The other three skins, were of the normal white background colour. Books on mammals, therefore, need to be amended accordingly in order to include Bhutan in the range of the Snow Leopard.

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##### 5. OCCURRENCE OF THE NAYAN OR GREAT TIBETAN SHEEP, *OVIS AMMON HODGSONI* BLYTH, IN BHUTAN

In Ellerman & Morrison-Scott's CHECKLIST the range of this wild sheep is given as 'Tibet, probably on Nepal frontier', Himalayan region', 'Nepal', 'Tibet' and 'Ladak'. In Prater's BOOK OF INDIAN ANIMALS it is given as 'The plateau of Tibet from northern Ladak eastwards . . . the extreme north of Sikkim'. No mention of Bhutan is made in either of the above two books.

I recently learned from the King of Bhutan that this sheep is in fact found in Bhutan, in the extreme north of the Ha and Paro valleys near the Tibetan border. He himself shot one north of Paro in 1945, and kindly allowed me to photograph the head as documentary evidence. Patrols in the area report each year the continued existence of these sheep, and within the last year similar reports have come in about their survival. They are strictly protected, I was informed,

and not allowed to be shot by anyone. Books on mammals need to be amended accordingly.

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#### 6. A CASE OF ALBINISM IN *RATTUS BLANFORDI* (THOMAS), 1881 (RODENTIA : MURINAE)

Since 1961 regular trapping of rodents and shrews formed part of the work of the Virus Research Centre Field Station at Sagar (Shimoga District, Mysore State) which was engaged in the studies on the epidemiology of Kyasanur Forest Disease. Blanford's Rat, *Rattus blanfordi* was consistently obtained in 'Sherman' traps throughout the year. The total number of rats of this species collected since 1961 were as follows:

1961	174
1962	232
1963	284
1964	150
1965	166
1966	207

Total : 1213 rats in 1,14, 184 trap nights.

All the 1213 rats obtained during this period were typical *Rattus blanfordi* with the normal coloration as mentioned by Ellerman (1961)<sup>1</sup>.

On 17 November 1966, an albino female rat was captured in an evergreen patch of forest about four miles south of Sagar. This was provisionally identified as *Rattus blanfordi* from the type of noise it made. Unlike normal *blanfordi* specimens, the fur was uniformly dull white in colour with pink eyes. The tail was also uniformly dull white in colour, whereas in normal rats, the tail is dark brown basally and whitish terminally. The measurements of this albino rat were as follows: head and body 188 mm., tail 203 mm., hind foot 35 mm., and ear 31 mm. The identification has been confirmed by breeding experiments in the laboratory.

<sup>1</sup> Ellerman, J. R. (1961) : Fauna of India, Mammalia 3. Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta,